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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Hungary	REPORT	
SUBJECT	Prison in Szeged	DATE DISTR.	20 October 1953
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50X1-HUM

50X1-HUM

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

1. General.

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- a. The so-called Star Prison (Csillag Börtön) is located on Marx tér 13 in Szeged in a three-story building which has the shape of a large cross or star.
- b. On the first floor of the prison is Department "C" with correction cells and cells for newly arrived prisoners.
- c. There are the following other departments: working department; former department for political prisoners which was united with the working department; workshop department and the so-called "small prison" for prisoners from Szeged and neighborhood; cells for prisoners on trial and for women, and single cells.
- d. In Nagyfa, about 12 km. distant from Szeged, is an outpost belonging to the prison. About 500 female prisoners and about 70 male prisoners are imprisoned here, who have to do hard labor on the state farm. The products of the state farm are transported by water to the market in New Szeged.
- e. The number of prisoners in Szeged, including those working in Nagyfa, is about 2,500. In each cell of the main building are 10 prisoners; the cells are 2 x 4 m. in size. In November 1952, all prisoners who had been sentenced to more than five years' imprisonment and who up to then had been employed on large-scale building work, were sent back to the prison. At that time the cells were overcrowded to such an extent that some of them were occupied by 40 men.

2. Food.

- a. The food of the prisoners consists of: 250 g. of bread (daily ration), black coffee for breakfast; $\frac{1}{2}$ liter of vegetables and 0.3 liters of soup for lunch; 0.4 liters of vegetables for supper. The inside workers receive a daily ration of 250 g. of bread. Depending on the kind of work they have to do, the outside

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50X1-HUM

- 2 -

workers receive a larger vegetable ration and a daily bread ration of 450 - 550 g. of bread. The working prisoners have to pay for their food. The prison is supplied with vegetables by the state farm in Nagyfa, but the supplies are often insufficient in which case the prisoners only receive soup and bread.

- b. The working prisoners are allowed a monthly ration of 100 - 120 cigarettes, but the inside workers are not allowed to smoke. If cigarettes are found on anyone who is not allowed to smoke, he gets 6 months correction arrest, which means complete darkness in the cell, twice a week he is put in chains for 3 hours, and every third day no feed.

3. Treatment.

The treatment is very severe, and for the slightest offense the prisoners are put in chains or in a dark cell or get no food, etc. Prisoners who are sentenced to more than 5 years imprisonment can only receive visitors every third month; prisoners with shorter sentences every second month. All prisoners are allowed a 5 kg. parcel twice a year, one in June and one at Christmas. Letters must not be longer than 33 lines. The prisoners are not allowed to read. The daily exercise of the prisoners is supposed to be one hour's walk which is mostly reduced to 15 minutes or does not take place at all. The prisoners wear summer clothes all the year round. There is no heating and no soap, and once a week the prisoners have a cold bath.

4. Types of Prisoners.

The prisoners can be divided by classes as follows:

- a. About 58% farmers
- b. 33% intellectuals
- c. 2% manufacturers
- d. 7% other types of prisoners, including criminals.

5. Work in the Prison.

Working prisoners have certain privileges, but not all prisoners can be taken on for work. Besides the outpost in Nagyfa, where chiefly the women have to carry out heavy work, only about 250 persons are employed in the following workshops: about 60 in the metal workshop, 90 in the carpenter's workshop and about 50 in the bootmaker's workshop. During the first 6 weeks they receive no salary and after this period they are generally relieved, so that the prison administration does not have to pay the salaries.

6. Regulations.

- a. The keys are always kept by the Director of the prison. The guards only receive the keys when they distribute the food or when they have a special written permit to obtain them.
- b. On holidays all 3 meals are handed out to the prisoners in the morning and the cells are not opened again until the following morning.
- c. The last church service in the prison took place at Easter 1950; since then the chapel has been used as a store. On Communist holidays the cells have to be decorated with pictures of the Communist leaders and with red flags.

7. Administration.

The administration personnel consists of:

50X1-HUM

- a. Director: Major Antal Badanyi, [redacted]
- b. Deputy Director: AVH Captain Ferenc Barna, who is at the same time Political Officer and in charge of the prisoners. [redacted]

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50X1-HUM

- 3 -

50X1-HUM

c. Commander of the guard unit (250 men): Lieutenant János Francia,d. Deputy Commander of the guard unit: Sergeant József Biczo,e. Head of the labor service: Sergeant Lajos Balogh,g. Head of the correction department: Sergeant Elek Pataki,8. Some of the Prisoners.

The following prisoners are known by name:

50X1-HUM

a. László Sitkey,b. Dr. Péter Pál Egry,c. Dr. Ödön Nemes,d. Imre Bognár,e. László Zboray,f. Dr. László Ajtai,g. Dennis László,h. Count István Esterházyi. József Lőrincz,j. Géza Polgár,k. László Zsirosl. Imre Berci,m. Mihály Szakas,n. Béla Ugron,o. Ferenc Barnap. Pál Határ

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